

Friends Faith and Forgiveness (Mark 2:1-12)

- I. A Servant must Express Friendship in Evangelism
 - A. In determining the Object of Friendship
 - B. Despite the Obstacles of Friendship
- II. A servant must Exercise Faith In Evangelism
 - A. Faith In Our Actions
 - B. Faith In Our Adversities
 - C. Faith in Our Anticipation
- III. The Servant can extend Forgiveness In Evangelism
 - A. Forgiveness is Determined Strangely
 - B. Forgiveness is Directed specifically
 - C. Forgiveness is Dealt with Sovereignly
 - D. Forgiveness is Demonstrated Significantly

Friends, Faith + Friendliness Mark 2:1-12

Gospel songs often times try to bend gospel truth in order to make a point. One is my name is Lazarus. A real toe tapper that depicts these four men carrying this paralyzed man to Jesus as, four men which Jesus had in some way healed. 3 of which thought that Jesus would probably not be able to help this man. Withers hand, lame walking, leper cleansed but the 4th man settled all their doubts with his testimony. He said My name is Lazarus! The one brought back from dead. Meaning that if God can heal a man from death, he can do anything. Although it bends the accounts of scripture like a loopy-loop roller coaster it has a good point. But we don't have to bend scripture in order to draw out great and applicable truths. Jesus now makes his way back into Capernaum, for he has drawn a great blocker these 4 men. Every Christian can learn solid applicable truth concerning evangelism by following these 4 men.

I. A Servant must Express Friendship ^{tests}

I once listened to this street preacher on a college campus, lambasting students, with snide comments concerning life style and a horage

of statements telling them... going to hell. Eph 7:15

A. In Determining the Object of Friendship - V3

How do you choose your friends? These four were a friend to a man that could in no way benefit them. Oft we look for friends on our social or economic level. Befriending those below is messy difficult. It may be expensive and cost us our pride, but these 4 ingenious men reached down to one and he came the catalyst for a life changing moment in this man sick of palsy. I am very proud of my daughter. She oft times will go out of her way to help.

B. Despite the Obstacles of friendship - V3

"Bringing" + "Born" + Sick + crowd (v3+4).

Ever heard of "fair-weather friends"? These friends weren't. There was a Separation there between the need and the provision. Some distance that had to be traversed. There was a Sickness. He had to be carried to Jesus there was no other way he could be helped. There was a Stigma (Shame) - these 4 grown men carrying another grown man, taking the roof off the house (What are you doing?) The world may tell us ^{no greater} what we are doing is wrong.

II. A Servant must Exercise Faith - Not

only friendship was seen but Faith exercised. There was a direction to their Friendship. As Servants of Jehovah all our friendships have a direction.

Ephesians 4:15 ...speaking the truth in love...

James 2:18 Yes, a man may say, 'I have faith,' and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

...Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, not them that were whole, but them that were lost.

There was a covering that had to be picked up. Are you afraid of getting your hands dirty to reach the lost? Or maybe it is a hardened cold heart that needs to be broken up over the lost's condition. Or maybe it's the conversation. They were in an uncomfortable condition while all this talking and dealing was going on inside the house. Have you grown weary of the waiting?

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

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toward growing our Brother or Sister or Saving the lost

A. Faith in Our Actions - Think of this scene. Man paralyzed sick, Healer on other side of town. They could have told this sick man 1000 times I know that Jesus can help you, I've seen him do it. But if action is never involved, then he will never get helped. "People will not care how much you know until they know how much you care." James said it best in Jas 1:18

B. Faith in Our Anticipation - There are so many blockades in this text. Separation, sickness, Stigma, Shame, the crowd, the climbing, the covering (roof), the covering, what kept these men going, what kept them thinking, endeavoring, Anticipation! Anticipation of what Jesus could do. Anticipation of walking w/ their friend. This is what drove them ^{us}

C. Faith in Our Adversities - Their faith may have produced action, but it wasn't going to be easy. Just because you get your sneakers on and get off the couch doesn't mean you will be given the win. There was a crowd that made it difficult to get to Jesus. Are you part of this crowd? There was a climb. Does ascending and growing in Christian life keep you from going the distance? C.

III. The Servant can Extend Forgiveness
We must remember, no matter our faith or our friendship, we must remember that there is only one Servant of Jehovah

that can forgive sins and it is the Son of God.
A. Forgiveness is Determined Strongly^{v5} or
Mysteriously - What a strange statement
"their faith" Jesus saw the faith of friends
and then forgave the man. There in Black &
white. Personal faith saves a man the Bible teaches
"Justified by faith" But here we can play a role in someone

B. Forgiveness is Directed Specifically - Thy
Sins! Not "thy palsy". To the outside
world Jesus targeted the wrong thing,
you's pose to make him get up out of bed, not get
up out of hell. But Jesus specifically targeted
the heart of man's problem. The heart of the problem is

C. Forgiveness is Dealt w/ Sovereignty^{v6} -
Jesus did this in order to prove once
again who he was. Not just a great mir-
acle worker, but that he was indeed God. They
were right! Only God can and only God did and
divinely stamped it with the healing of the man^{Get up}.

D. Forgiveness is Demonstrated Significantly
Significantly or Signified? Not Take up thy bed
Why that bed? Why not Just leave it there?
Bed was laid on for years, prob nasty, torn
smelly, Why is the perfectly healthy ^{only}
carrying around that old bed. It signified a deep

IV Closing - Evangelism is the out pour
of our love for what God has done for us.
But as one author writes: How is it that the
soul being of such value, and God so great

...play a role in someone being forgiven of their sins. I tell you what, if that's the case, then I want in on that! Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. "You saved me brother Ronnie!" I correct them, but there is some truth. My faith in action brought them to a meeting with the gospel.

...is a problem with the heart! Man's problem is far beyond the outward deformities. Not his or her alcohol, drug, sexual perversion, but it is a heart of sin, that must be cleansed by the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

I was at a meeting the other day...Today I went back to the place where I used to go. Today I saw the same old friends I knew before, and when they asked me what had happened I tried to tell them, Thanks to Calvary I don't go there anymore. Thanks to Calvary I am not what I used to be, thanks to Calvary things are different than before, and as the tears rolled down my face I tried to tell them thanks to Calvary, I don't go there any more.

...eternity so near and yet we are so little moved?